

## **The Town Hall, the Schools, the Community Hall**

Dives had two monuments adjoining a belfry, one connected to the town hall (1869), and one connected to the factory (1891). When it was inaugurated, the town hall had two classrooms – one for girls and one for boys – which could each accommodate 60 pupils, and accommodation for the teachers on the floor above. The town only had 850 inhabitants at the time; thirty years later, this number had risen to 3,400. The packed classes had to cram into temporary buildings. The town hall was extended in 1898 and equipped with a community centre.

The new school, on the avenue Secrétan, which was built in 1901 and then extended in 1933, became the current *groupe Colleville*, named after a teacher couple.

At no. 17 rue du général de Gaulle, the *villa Le Progrès*, the former headquarters of the Republican newspaper *Le Progrès*, was bought by the factory in 1930 so that it could be converted into accommodation for its engineers.

### Legend

Pupils and their schoolteacher posing in front of the town hall and the schools, around 1910, Jacques Gauthier collection.

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As well as a general education, the *école Colleville* provided professional training for boys as early as 1935. F. Destin collection – digitised by La Fabrique de Patrimoines en Normandie.

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In 1930, a new community centre was built between the town hall and the post office. It served as a ballroom, a concert hall and for school festivals. In the 1970s, the building was converted into an arthouse cinema. Le Drakkar. J. Gauthier collection.